

Camps

New Summer Breezes

Kids Camp Roundup

By BRUCE BARRETT

The weather has turned. A warm sun saves daylight well into evening. It's time to plan for lazy summer days, balmy nights, and – oh, yeah! – something for the kids to do when school finally gets out.

Duxbury's Camp Wing (boys) and Duxbury Stockade (girls) have given summer fun and fellowship to kids since the 1930s. Once a service for overnight campers from the city, Camp Wing Day Camp now offers premier camp experiences for local children, while continuing its overnight camp for inner-city and other children in need.

Accredited by the American Camping Association, both programs operate under the aegis of Crossroads 4 Kids, run separately but side-by-side at the massive northwest Duxbury site. Crossroads 4 Kids runs year-round programs, includ-

attend the same session. Check their website at camp-wingdaycamp.org, or call 834-2700.

What is the camp experience? Free from the pressures of scholastic learning and indoor civilization, children get the chance to meet and make friends, share the ooey-goey fun of rustic living, learn about nature and fresh air, and try their hand at swimming, boating, archery and the rest. Campfires, scary stories and goofy songs? Camp Wing offers an overnight for each session, at no extra charge.

Meadowcroft Day Camp in Norwell draws a fair number of Duxbury kids, too.

dropped off by parents. Except for canoeing, Meadowcroft offers all the usual day camp adventures, including Red Cross certified swimming instruction. Check meadowcroftcamp.com, or call 781-659-2362.



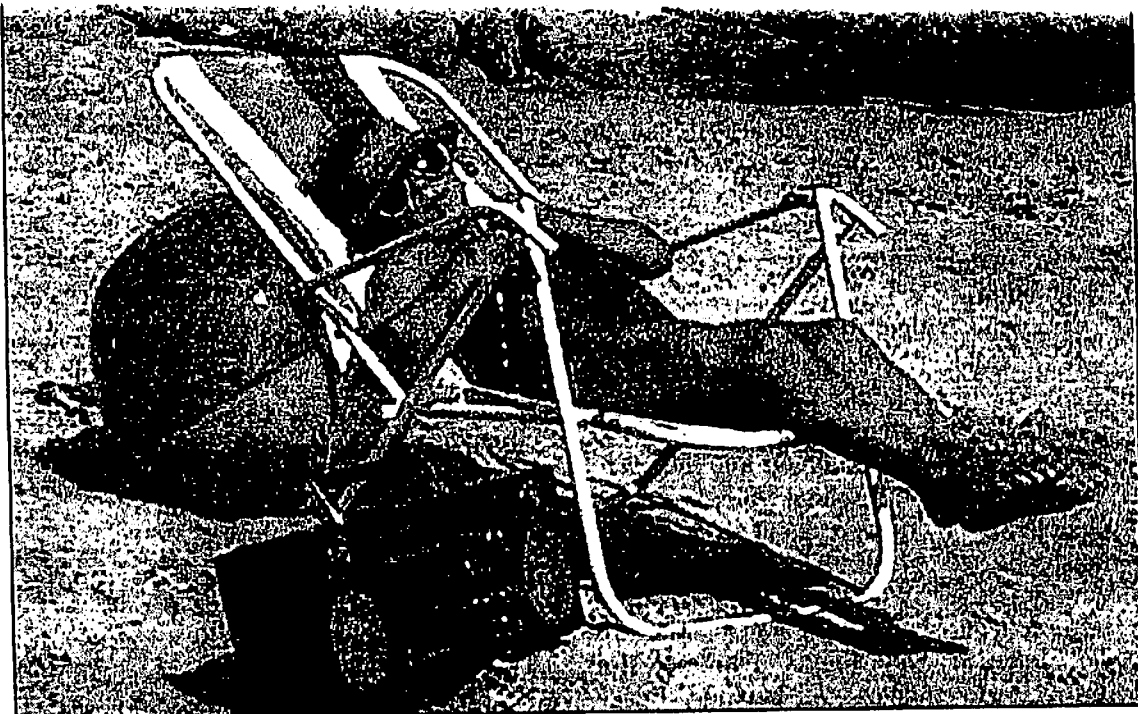
Ready for some campfire adventures? Check out local camps like Camp Wing or Meadowcroft.

ing leadership training, but their centerpiece remains the camp experience.

Camp Wing costs about \$400 per 2-week session, with additional fees for extended day and bus transportation. Discounts apply for multiple sessions or when siblings

Sessions run for three weeks starting June 27, with a third session of two weeks at the end of the season. Fees start at \$260 per week, so a three-week session is \$780. Bus service is \$40 per week, but campers using the extended day must be picked up and

In fact, call right away. Summer camp sessions fill quickly, but it's well worth it to get on the waiting list if a session is full. People's summer plans change, and waiting list kids often get in after all. How to choose, aside from the money and location? I've had



There's plenty more to do this summer than just hanging out at the beach.

experience with both camps in my family, and they're both top-notch. Both have loads of kids from Duxbury. Meadowcroft's sign-up form even has a place to list "friends the camper would like to be with," and a spot to list "friends the camper would not like to be with." I know just the kind of friends they're talking about. Camp is about getting a break from the school year's usual pressures. Camp Wing is bigger, has a lake for boating, and Big Mike – a legendary snapping turtle the size of a Volkswagen. Meadowcroft has Big Jim – a legendary Director who knows more silly songs than Dr. Seuss. You pick.

By far the best deal around is the Duxbury Recreation Department Kid's Camp at \$650 for the seven-week season, June 27 through August 12. Registration runs from May 2 to May 13, but there

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The Duxbury Bay Maritime School offers a wide variety of sailing, kayaking and rowing classes throughout the summer.

Summer Camp Fun

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re only 130 spaces. Registration is at Girl Scout House on Washington Street near Ball's Corner from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday (starting May 2), Thursday night, May 5, 6 to 8, and Saturday, May 7, 8 to 11 a.m.

I'm betting the camp will be full before Saturday, if not before Thursday. Camp activities include field trips, arts and crafts, games and sports, and a weekly beach day (drop off and pick up at Duxbury Beach). There's no extended day plan, but for less than \$93 per week, who cares? The kids have a great time with their friends, and from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. (9:30 to 2:30 on beach Tuesdays) Mom and Dad can do some work, relax, or sing their own silly songs. Call the Rec. Department at 934-7034, or check the town website at www.town.duxbury.ma.us, (click on Recreation).

Is your budget tighter than \$93 per week? Some Recreation Department programs are free, like the Kite Flying Day at Duxbury Beach, Saturday, May 7, from 1 to 3 p.m. – just bring a kite. Or join the Percy Walker Pool at the school complex on St. George Street. Town resident family membership is \$40 per month, counting from the day you join. With ample general swim times scheduled every day, you and the kids can have a waterlogged summer for peanuts. Advantages over Duxbury Beach – hot showers, warm water, no sun-screen glop, very little wildlife, and the parking is

free. A full range of lessons are available, too. Call the pool directly at 934-2464 for details on the next sign-up period, but be prepared. Percy Walker classes fill fast, and your membership must be paid up through the course of the lessons to get the members' rate. There's no deadline for just swimming – join the pool any time.

Looking for something more artsy? Duxbury Art Association (934-2731, ext. 4) offers a Summer Fun Program, running Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. June 27 through August 19. For kids aged 5 to 9 years old, the program incorporates art, music, and fun with weekly themes like "Mexican Madness," "Under the Sea," or "Bound for Broadway." Sign up for the weeks you want. DAA members pay \$250 per week, others pay \$300. It's all at the Ellison Center for the Arts near the school complex on St. George Street. A Pre-School Summer Fun runs through the same dates for ages 3 1/2 to 5 years old (toilet trained only) from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. each day for \$180 per week (members), \$230 per week for others. Check the DAA website at duxburyart.org.

Also at the Ellison Center, Jose Mateo's Ballet Theatre Young Dancer's Program runs a six-week summer dance program from June 28 through August 11, for children ages 3 – 12 years old. The youngest

dancers meet weekly for less than an hour, cost \$90 to \$160 for the summer. Older dancers meet twice a week, need an audition, and tuition is \$325 for levels I and II, \$500 for level III. Call 934-2731, ext 10, or check southshoreconservatory.org.

Boston Ballet runs a Young Dancers Summer Workshop for ages 3 – 14 years at the Norwell Studio, 781-871-7468, for four weeks – July 5 through July 29. Ages 8 and up require auditions, and a final audition session is set for Saturday, April 30 from 2 to 4 p.m. in Norwell. There's no fee for the audition, but you must pre-register.

Children 3 – 7 years old enroll without an audition. Tuition ranges from \$160 for the little kids, who meet twice a week for an hour, to \$1,275 for older advanced dancers, who meet Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Everyone pays a \$25 registration fee. Call for details, or go to bostonballet.org for more.

Duxbury wouldn't be here without Duxbury Bay. The Duxbury Bay Maritime School offers an extensive schedule of sailing, rowing, kayaking, and marine ecology classes and camps throughout the summer. Executive Director Ned Lawson puts it well in their latest program bulletin – "There is simply nothing that beats the recreational and educational value of messing about in boats in Duxbury Bay or exploring the incredibly rich and diverse resources of the bay."

Duxbury Clipper

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Classes and other programs are open for children and adults, with specialized sailing classes for women taught by women (they use planning, skill, and practice as some kind of alternative to brute force and profanity). They have classes with accessible boats for sailors with physical or mental disabilities. I've talked to Ned and his staff – they're serious about their mission "...to connect people of all ages, abilities, and means to Duxbury Bay [to] stimulate individual growth and an enduring love and appreciation of the sea." Call 934-7555 for details, or check their website at durbayms.com.

On Duxbury Bay, success is often in the planning, a lesson parents learn about keeping kids happy, active, and tired in the summer. Summer breezes are just around the corner. Don't miss the boat.



You can have a ball with the Duxbury Recreation Department's many – and affordable – summer offerings.

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